

Fall NEWSLETTER

wetra
Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Association

WETRA's New Executive Director!

WETRA is pleased to announce the appointment of Paige Shepley as its new Executive Director, as she prepares to step into the role following the retirement of WETRA's long-time Executive Director, Becky Mills.

Paige brings a deep understanding of WETRA's mission, programs, clients, volunteers, and the community it serves. Her connection to WETRA and her commitment to helping individuals of all abilities make her a natural fit to lead the organization into its next chapter.

Throughout her time with WETRA, Paige has demonstrated a strong passion for the people and animals at the heart of the organization. Her dedication, leadership, and understanding of therapeutic and equine-assisted programming have played an important role in supporting WETRA's continued growth.

As Executive Director, Paige will lead WETRA's strategic direction and day-to-day operations while working closely with staff, volunteers, the Board of Directors, donors, community partners, and program participants. Her focus will be on strengthening WETRA's programs, building community partnerships, supporting the organization's dedicated team, and ensuring WETRA can continue meeting the growing demand for its unique services.

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WETRA's New Executive Director Paige Shepley

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Your Donation

Helping Change Lives

At WETRA, every donation helps create opportunities for children to learn, grow, and thrive. Your generosity helps provide access to therapeutic riding and programming that supports physical development, confidence, communication, independence, and emotional well-being.

Behind every lesson is a team of dedicated staff, volunteers, and therapy horses — but it is the support of donors that helps make these programs possible.

Donations help maintain our facilities, care for our horses, purchase equipment, and ensure we can continue offering meaningful programming to children with diverse abilities and needs.

Your support goes beyond a donation. It helps a child discover what they are capable of, build confidence, achieve milestones, and take their next step forward. Together, we can change lives — one child, one horse, and one step at a time.





Create a Lasting Impact

As we approach the holiday season, we invite you to consider making a donation to WETRA. The demand for our unique, specialized equine-assisted services continues to grow, and your support helps ensure that children and individuals with diverse needs can continue to access these life-changing programs.

Your generosity helps provide the horses, facilities, equipment, and resources needed to deliver quality programming that builds confidence, independence, physical skills, and emotional well-being.

This holiday season, give a gift that goes beyond the wrapping paper. Give the gift of opportunity, growth, and possibility. Give to WETRA and help us continue changing lives—one step at a time.

Scan Here To Donate

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2027 Windsor Firefighters Calendar

Featuring WETRA Horses!



We are incredibly grateful to the Windsor Fire Fighters Benefit Fund for choosing the Windsor-Essex Therapeutic Riding Association as the beneficiary of proceeds from the sale of the 2027 Windsor Fire Fighters Calendar!

This year's calendar features some very special faces — Windsor Fire Fighters alongside our amazing therapy horses here at the WETRA farm!

Support our local firefighters. Support WETRA. And enjoy a year of great photos featuring some of our favourite four-legged partners!

Calendars are available for purchase at WETRA and at locations throughout the community.

Support our local firefighters. Support WETRA. And enjoy a year of great photos featuring some of our favourite four-legged partners!



Camp Registration Opens January 2027!

The countdown to camp season is on! WETRA is excited to announce that registration for both March Break Camp and Summer Camp will open in January 2027.

Our camps offer children of all abilities opportunities to learn, grow, build confidence, and create lasting memories through hands-on activities and meaningful interactions with our incredible therapy horses. From discovering the joys of horsemanship to developing friendships and new skills, there is something special about spending time at WETRA!

With our camps continuing to be a popular experience for families throughout Windsor-Essex County, we encourage everyone to mark their calendars and keep an eye on our website and social media for registration details.



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Golf Tournament Success!

WETRA's annual Charity Golf Tournament held at Sutton Creek Golf Course was a tremendous success, with the event selling out and bringing together a fantastic group of supporters for a memorable day on the course! Blessed with beautiful weather, golfers enjoyed a fun-filled day of friendly competition, laughter, and camaraderie, all while supporting WETRA's life-changing programs and services.

Adding to the excitement, one lucky golfer scored an incredible hole-in-one, winning $10,000! It was certainly a highlight of the day and a moment that won't soon be forgotten.



We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who participated, sponsored, volunteered, and helped make this year's tournament such a success. Your generosity and continued support help WETRA provide meaningful opportunities for individuals with diverse needs throughout Windsor-Essex County.



Save the Date!

Friday, June 25 2027

WETRA Golf Tournament

WETRA's own Copper was our horse ambassador displaying our presenting sponsor - ***Empire Roofing***

Copper's purchase was made possibe by generous funding from

W.E. CARE FOR KIDS
WINDSOR ESSEX CARE FOR KIDS FOUNDATION

Seniors Programming Continues!

The Seniors Community Grant Program helps local not-for-profit community groups and organizations deliver projects, supports, and resources that encourage older adults aged 55+ to stay active, connected, and involved in their communities.

Ontario

WETRA was proud to be a recipient of funding from the Province of Ontario through the Seniors Community Grant Program, allowing us to continue our successful seniors programming right here at WETRA.

Throughout the year, WETRA staff and volunteers have created opportunities for seniors to connect, learn, stay active, and enjoy the unique benefits of spending time around our horses. Programs and activities have included Carriages & Cocoa, senior yoga events, leather workshops, baking activities, and much more.

These programs provide more than just an activity—they create opportunities for friendship, social connection, learning, movement, and meaningful experiences in a welcoming environment.

We are excited to continue offering these successful programs throughout the year, with even more activities already being planned for the new year. We look forward to welcoming our seniors back to WETRA and continuing to create opportunities for connection, wellness, and community.



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16th Annual Hogs for Horses



On Sunday, September 27th, WETRA was proud to welcome the Iron Horse Motorcycle Club for their 16th Annual Hogs for Horses Ride! The day brought beautiful weather, great company, and well over 100 riders who came out to show their incredible support for WETRA.

Riders gathered at WETRA to register and enjoy a breakfast before hitting the road and continuing their ride throughout Essex County. The ride concluded at the Colchester Bar & Grill, where everyone came together for dinner, door prizes, and plenty of time to celebrate another successful year.

Year after year, we are amazed by the dedication and generosity of the Iron Horse Motorcycle Club and their commitment to WETRA. Their support extends far beyond the annual Hogs for Horses Ride, with fundraising throughout the year through raffles, bike nights, BBQs, and other events—all helping to make a meaningful difference for the individuals and families we serve.

WETRA is incredibly grateful to the Iron Horse Motorcycle Club and everyone who participated, volunteered, donated, and helped make this year's Hogs for Horses Ride another unforgettable day of support. We truly appreciate everything you do for WETRA!



Hayrides, Horses & Happy Faces!



WETRA's Fall Fair

What a fantastic day we had at WETRA's 5th Annual Fall Fair! With perfect fall weather, beautiful sunshine, and a wonderful turnout, it was a day filled with fun, laughter, and community spirit.



We were thrilled to welcome over 50 vendors from across Windsor and Essex County, who joined us to showcase their products, crafts, and services. There was something for everyone to enjoy, including hayrides, carriage rides, our ever-popular bake sale, and delicious food fresh off WETRA's BBQ.

One of the highlights of the day was the always-entertaining dog show, generously put on by the Border City Barkers, which brought plenty of smiles to visitors of all ages. Meanwhile, our therapy horses enjoyed the beautiful sunshine, basking in the warmth while visitors had the opportunity to see some of the special horses that make WETRA such a unique place.

Events like our Fall Fair are a wonderful reminder of the incredible support WETRA receives from our community. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who attended, our amazing vendors, volunteers, sponsors, and everyone who helped make the day such a success.

Your continued support helps WETRA provide meaningful programs and opportunities for individuals with diverse needs throughout our community.

Thank you for celebrating with us, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for next year's Annual Fall Fair!

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WETRA's sensory STABLE

BY: the haunted zoo

The Sensory Stable is a fully immersive, artistically curated space for children of all abilities to play, relax, explore and grow. Whether children need extra stimulation before mounting a horse for a riding lesson, want to decompress during a busy summer camp, work through their occupational therapy goals or simply have fun, this is a space designed for them.

"The sensory stable at WETRA has given our family a truly unique opportunity to experience the calming and therapeutic benefits of being around the farm. It is a special place where participants can feel comfortable, engaged, and supported while building confidence and creating meaningful connections."
-Family Member of WETRA participant





WETRA is incredibly grateful to Jeff and Christie Denomme of The Haunted Zoo, who brought their incredible creativity, talent, and passion to this project. After meeting with the WETRA team and learning about our vision, our programs, and the children and families we hoped to impact, they took that vision and transformed it into something truly special.

They didn't simply create a room — they created an experience. By understanding the needs, interests, and diverse abilities of the children we serve, Jeff and Christie designed a space that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and makes learning fun and engaging.

Their ability to turn an idea into a place where children can feel comfortable, excited, and inspired is something we are incredibly thankful for. What started as a vision became a reality because of their extraordinary talent and generosity — creating a space where children can learn, discover, and simply "bee" themselves.

You can catch the ZooKeeper Docuseries on Bell Media's Fibe TV1 Featuring the Sensory Stable in one of the episodes!

hauntedzoo

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